

Groby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Groby Parish Council held at 7.30pm
on Monday 31st January 2005 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road,
Groby.

Cou/317/04-05 Present.

Members; Cllrs. Hagan, Allison, Batty, Beck,, Dickson, Emmerson, Hodges, Hollick, Jones, Kennard, Lock, Marvin, Purves and Yarwood.

Cou/318/04-05 Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Coates.

Cou/319/04-05 Declarations of Interest

Personal interests were declared by:

Cllr. Jones - Open Spaces.

Cllr. Hodges - Open Spaces.

Cllr. Batty - All items on the Agenda as Chairman of the Groby Parish Residents Group.

Cllr. Dickson - Groby Parish Residents Group.

Cou/320/04-05 Public Participation.

No members of the public were present

Cou/321/04-05 Notice of Motion - Ground Maintenance Staff and Notice of Motion - Best Value Review/Efficiency Audit.

The Chairman stated that the two notices of motion on the Agenda were not dissimilar and asked members if they wished to take both items together. It was agreed to take Agenda items 4 & 5 together.

Cllr Purvis stated that this Council had attempted to resolve the issues of the "Special Duties Contact" since May 2004.

She believed the lack of progress has had a detrimental effect on the relationships between the Council and it staff.

There has been concern expressed regarding what is and is not done by the Grounds Maintenance Staff and whether or not it is value for money.

The issue has been clouded by the first Working Party making a suggestion that the staff's hours were increased without an investigation into how much work they did; this was then compounded by the second Working Party assuming that the gate function could be done within normal hours this again without anything to substantiate it.

The outcome was that the Council was unable to decide the best way forward.

Cllr. Purves understood that work sheets are now once again being completed and this should be of assistance to whoever may be appointed (should the motion be adopted) to complete the Work Study as it will identify work already undertaken and how long it took, in the weeks prior to the commencement of a study and during it.

The Clerk will also be able to provide if required information on what has been contracted out to complete this exercise and costing.

The costing for this project was based on the consultant's fees for another project and could possibly be less depending on the time required in discussion with staff and assessment of land maintenance throughout the Parish. The winter rate was based on approximately 3 days work and summer rate on 4/5 days work.

Cllr. Purves proposed that a work study be undertaken to substantiate what the workloads are, the length of time taken for specific tasks and any further work that needs implementing to maintain and secure the Council's land to a high standard.

Cllr Batty seconded by Cllr. Kennard proposed that this matter be debated in closed session as it related to staffing matters.

Resolved this item be debated in Closed Session.

Members discussed the two notices of motion and considered the best way to move this matter forward. It was felt that was very little difference between the two proposals.

The movers of the motions, Cllr. Purves and Cllr. Hodges agreed to withdraw their respective motions and vote on a motion proposed by Cllr. Allison.

Cllr. Allison, seconded by Hodges, proposed that:

- i) To carry out a work study of existing grounds maintenance operations including the locking and unlocking of gates at a cost of up to £10,000.
- ii) To compare the results of the work study to recognised performance data to enable the Council to come to an informed view on whether it is currently achieving value for money and a good service.
- iii) In light of the results of the study and the comparative information identify the best method of practicing the grounds maintenance service including the option of externalisation.
- iv) Inform the staff of the Council's decision and seek their support to the process.

Resolved that:

- i) To carry out a work study of existing grounds maintenance operations including the locking and unlocking of gates at a cost of up to £10,000.**

ii) To compare the results of the work study to recognised performance data to enable the Council to come to an informed view on whether it is currently achieving value for money and a good service.

iii) In light of the results of the study and the comparative information identify the best method of practicing the grounds maintenance service including the option of externalisation.

iv) Inform the staff of the Council's decision and seek their support to the process.

(In favour of the motion 13. Against 1)

The Meeting closed at pm.

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman